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VALLEY STAR

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LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

AUSTIN CONOVER'S 90TH BRITHDAY



TAMMY ABBOTT / VALLEY STAR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY- Museum curator Austin Conover celebrates his 90th birthday with Valley College staff and family. Left to right: Tom Conover, Rebecca Conover, Austin Conover, and John Conover... **SEE STORY ON PAGE 4**

Judgment Day for Prop. AA

BY JACQUI BROWN
STAFF WRITER

With less than a week remaining to gather support, the race is on to see who will fill the seat in the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees' office 3. Incumbent Mona Field, who came just short of a majority vote with 48 percent in the March 4 election, will face off with challenger Joyce Burrell Garcia who took 24 percent. The May 20 runoff will carry with it a new bond measure, Proposition AA.

"I'm feeling confident about the upcoming election," said Field, whose list of supporters include Los Angeles City Council Members Wendy Greuel and Tom LaBonge and former state assembly speaker Robert Hertzberg. "I believe my record on the board and years of experience working in education makes me the best-qualified candidate."

The \$980 million bond measure Proposition AA is the second measure presented in more than two years and was added to the ballot as a result of this runoff. The board of trustees

decided in January to put the bond before voters, but it wasn't in time to meet the deadline to appear on the March ballot.

"People find it confusing that we're cutting back, yet at the same time asking for construction money," said Field. "However, the long term needs to modernize and rebuild our colleges must be addressed and Prop AA could ensure full development of our colleges for decades to come."

Field said her primary goal for the next several years is to protect students' programs and services because students have a right to complete their college goals.

"In times of tight budgets, very tough choices will have to be made."

"We knew from day one the first bond measure was not sufficient to cover the facilities we had discussed in our master plan," Valley College President Tyree Wieder said. "Our initial needs were well over \$200 million and we got \$165 million. Now that we're finding out things about infrastructure, with electrical and plumbing, more

See 'RUNOFF' on page 7

Officers Get ASU Awards

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

The Associated Student Union celebrated Thursday the end of a semester advisers identified as the most productive the executive board has had in years.

Since the threat of deep budget cuts to community colleges surfaced in January, the Valley College ASU has launched an extensive lobbying campaign, and voices within and outside campus have said it's made them stand out in the political arena.

"It's been a phenomenal year," ASU adviser Sherri Rodriguez said. "We started and ended strong and we came together as a team. Also thanks to the district and the state for a wonderful year. You guys have made such a difference, not only here at school but especially throughout the state."

The annual awards banquet recognizes those who've

involved themselves with the ASU or Inter-Club Council and their advisers. Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye also swore in next year's ASU officers at the awards dinner.

"We've worked really hard this year," psychology club member Oleg Kagan said after his club won Outstanding Club of the Year. "It feels rewarding that somebody recognizes our club."

Despite low participation among the general student population, the involvement within ASU and ICC is among the strongest ever, Delahoussaye said.

"This year, ASU has led the way," Delahoussaye said. "It's been the hardest working ASU I've worked with at Valley."

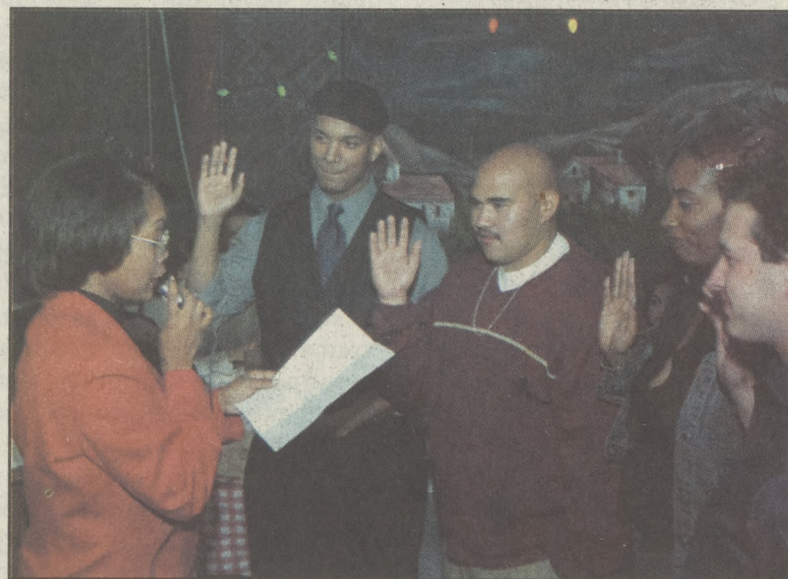
Many students at the awards ceremony, held at Buca Di Beppo's in Encino, admitted that before getting involved in

student government or clubs they'd never been active at school.

"This was the first time I ever ran a club," said Eduardo Vargas, ICC representative for

the Administration of Justice Club and last semester's leader of Movimiento de Estudiantes Chicanos de Azatlan (MEChA). "I was never really involved in

See 'AWARDS' on page 8



JORGE GALLEGOS / VALLEY STAR

SWEARING IN - Vice President of Student Services Yasmin Delahoussaye (left) swears in future ASU president James Brevard, vice president Erick Iniguez and others.

Governor Presents May Revise Today

BY SERENA DANIELS
STAFF WRITER

The May revise is due today and while state assembly members have worked non-stop to find enough revenue to fill the \$34 billion budget deficit, many are afraid the state's budget is in greater danger than in past months.

The state legislature tried earlier this month to reduce the state's deficit by half, reports said, and has taken steps to reverse the proposed \$530 million cutbacks to community colleges the governor made January. Problems for the state's three higher education systems will, however, continue to get worse, observers say.

"The state's revenue situation is less than optimistic," said Bruce Hamlett, chief consultant for the assembly of higher edu-

cation.

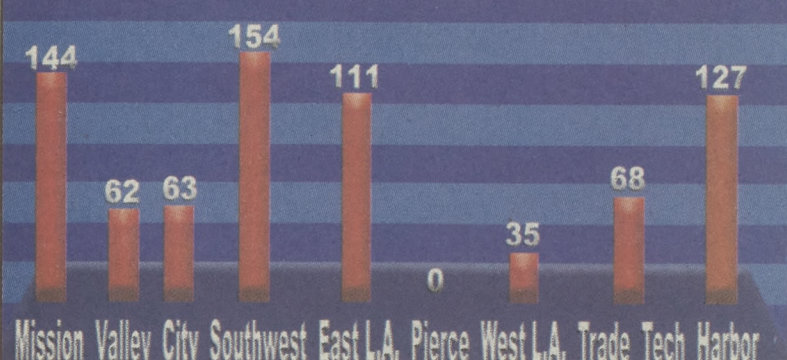
The debate surrounding fees has caused legislators to develop their own alternatives. Carol Liu (Dem. Pasadena) proposed annual increases until tuition reaches \$25 a unit in 2006. Earlier this month, the Assembly Republican caucus proposed to raise tuition to \$26 a unit and reduce the state's community college budget by \$280 million. The governor's January proposal was to cut \$530 million from the community college budget and raise tuition to \$24 a unit.

Liu's proposal quickly passed through the assembly's education committee in an attempt to remove it from the senate where it will be voted on later this month, experts say.

"Whenever lawmakers

See 'REVISE' on page 8

REGISTERED SEX OFFENDERS NEAR LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGES



INFOGRAPHIC BY: STERLING ANDREWS / INFORMATION FROM MEGAN'S LAW DATABASE

Attempted Rape Victim Speaks

Two months ago a female student was assaulted on campus. Her predator is still at large. This is a story about what happened to her and the search for her assailant.

BY JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

The hour was ending and students left one by one after finishing the night's assignment. She grabbed her books and bag and headed home. It was a dark night and the wind blew hard, swallowing all sounds around her. On the way to the parking lot her thoughts were on school, not safety. In what

felt like a sudden rush of heavy wind, someone came up from behind her and forced her to the ground.

"My voice was gone, I was in shock," she said. "He told me, 'I'll kill you.'" The Valley Star is withholding the victim's name due to the nature of the crime.

With her face pressed against the concrete and her hands pinned, she tried to struggle but her attacker overpowered her. He

tried to pull her pants down but she fought and made it difficult for him. Then he cut the back of her pants behind her right knee with a sharp weapon in an attempt to expose her.

The fear of rape became a reality. But as quickly as she lost hope, someone came out of the art building. "I could feel someone's presence," she said. "I heard an engine

See 'VICTIM' on page 8

Valley Celebrates National Nurses Week

By IVY DAI
STAFF WRITER

Nursing students and faculty hung a large banner and decorated the engineering building last week to celebrate national Nurse's Appreciation Week.

"I always wanted to be a nurse," Nursing Association co-vic president Dulce Lodrup said. "I didn't have the opportunities back home in Mexico."

Valley College's 2-year nursing program accepts 96 students every year. Known nationally as a reputable nursing program and accredited by the National League of Nurses (NLN), Valley is a popular nursing school.

"We are a center hub to the community for registered nurses," nursing director Judy Holton said. "College of the Canyons is to the north, Pierce is to the west, Glendale and

Pasadena are to the east, and the other schools have always been too far south. Valley serves Van Nuys and surrounding area."

Holton began teaching at Valley in January 1974. She came to Los Angeles from New York and worked at Kaiser Permanente on Sunset Boulevard where she coached pediatric nursing assistants. Her guidance was invaluable, and the student nursing assistants asked her to teach at Los Angeles City College in 1973.

She loved teaching so much she taught at Valley for the next 29 years. She serves as the health science chair (respiratory therapy and nursing departments) and nursing director, and will retire this year.

"The instructors are so supportive and nice," Lodrup said. "They're approachable, you can talk to them about your fears. They will hug and cry with you." Lodrup, now 39, said it

took five years to learn English and get her credentials to apply at Valley. She graduates this year, and plans to work in delivery and post-partum at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles.

Tina Rodriguez, 28, is also graduating this spring. "I wanted to become a nurse because of the stability. Nurses are in demand, and you make a pretty good living. Two of my aunts and my sister are nurses."

Nursing is a popular profession for the Filipino community. "To go overseas to the United States, you can get a job right away as a nurse. It's a skill that's in demand," said Rodriguez, who is Filipino.

"You need to put in a lot of real hard work, but in the end, it's satisfying," Lodrup said. The nursing students will celebrate the culmination of their hard work Tuesday, June 10 at Commencement 2003.

Future Teachers Find Support

By CHRISTINA GRATE
STAFF WRITER

Future teachers attending Valley College can enrich their futures by participating in the Teacher Preparation Academy (TPA).

The Teacher Preparation Academy assists students planning on becoming elementary or special education teachers. TPA provides students with career and academic resources to achieve their professional goals by initiating a life-long networking, benefiting not only themselves but their future students and society in general.

"It's a support group," Valley English professor and TPA director La Vergne Rosow said. "It's very helpful to know that other people are going through the same kind of things you're going through."

The academy allows full-time students a chance to earn a bachelor's degree and a teaching credential in as few as four years. They not only provide counseling, but they keep their students up to date by providing guest speakers and group projects.

"With our advisors and the counseling, the TPA definitely gives us an insight on what we

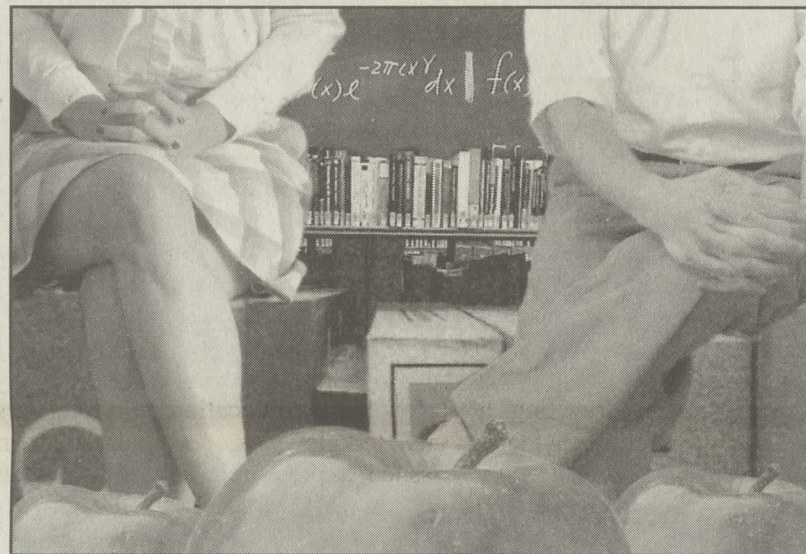


ILLUSTRATION BY STERLING ANDREWS

should take as far as classes go," said Eric Rodriguez, TPA club member.

"In the TPA students are given counseling services that guide them into a university program for teachers," Rosow said. "That way they don't waste time taking the wrong optional classes and end up not having the right classes to get into the program of choice."

The academy welcomed guest speaker Marta Sanchez, professor in the graduate school of education and psychology at Pepperdine University, and a professor in the Chicano Studies department at California State University, Northridge, to speak

about the role of teachers in society last month. Sanchez spoke about hard work and dedication regarding the social justice and equality of education.

"Schools are the socialization instrument for our society and when we start fragmenting who gets educated where and how, we start fragmenting the opportunities to socialize everybody to single ideals and values," Rosow said. "That's also Dr. Sanchez's view as well."

For more information regarding the Teacher's Preparation Academy, contact Rosow at La_Vergne_D_Rosow@lavc.edu.

Public Meeting for Draft EIR

By KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

Myra L. Frank & Associates, Inc. and the Consensus Planning Group organized a public meeting Wednesday for Valley College renovations' draft environmental impact report (EIR). Attendees looked at the present and future layout of Valley, commented on the master plan and EIR and talked to the campus renovation team's project manager Alix O'Brien, MF&A project manager Lee Lisecki and Valley President Tyree Wieder about the work.

"There will be new buildings with new technology that will satisfy current needs of students," Associated Student Union President Sam Khushyan said. "A more professional environment will help us compete in the academic arena."

MF&A, a firm that creates environmental impact and architectural history reports, has prepared the draft EIR for Valley. The California Environmental Quality Act requires an EIR be prepared for any project that may have significant effects on the

environment. The draft EIR and the master plan are available for review in the campus library and the Van Nuys Branch Library.

The three major areas generating concern are the visual and historical impact, air quality and traffic and parking. A few neighbors have voiced concerns about students parking on the west side of Fulton across from Valley, even though parking there and on surrounding streets requires a residential permit. The Master Plan will provide 307 additional parking spaces on campus.

The Master Plan outlines campus restorations that will integrate existing landscape and architectural features with new elements, adding to campus resources. The work is being funded through Proposition A, which allocated \$1.245 billion to repair and modernize LACCD campuses, \$165 million of which went to Valley.

Burt Roseman of Valley Glen suggested having a walking path with distance markers created on the campus perimeter. Roseman and his wife also expressed interest in the pool renovations.

"Often Faculty will take walks around the campus during their breaks for exercise," said Jeanne Rubin, executive secretary to the president. Community residents come to the campus to walk, and there was a walking path many years ago, Wieder added.

Biology department chair Karen Roy has submitted a directed walking tour that provides information about the trees and shrubs around campus. The foliage on campus used to be labeled for botany classes' benefit, Wieder said.

Wieder works with several community groups, imparting information about campus renovation and construction, including the Mid-Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Valley Glen Community Council, the Valley Glen Neighborhood Association and Valley Glen and Sherman Oaks homeowners groups. Six members of the community attended the meeting.

"Members of the Citizens Oversight Committee have been speaking to their homeowners groups and feel they have enough information,"

See 'EIR' on page 8

Utilizing Campus Greens

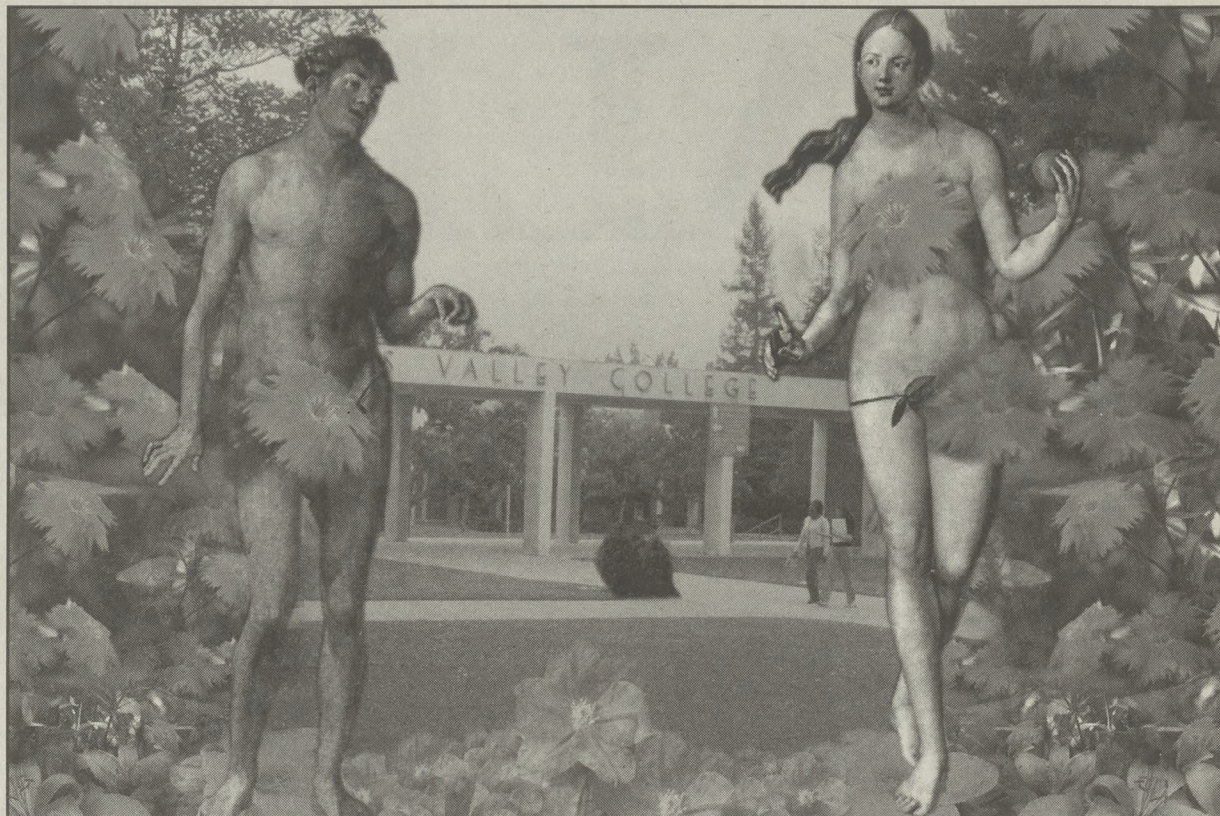


ILLUSTRATION BY STERLING ANDREWS

By TIFFANY FARMAKIS AND
KRISTA CARLSON
STAFF WRITERS

When compared to the other nine campuses in the Los Angeles Community College District, Valley College has the most diverse plant life. Valley's campus contains specimens of plant life from around the world.

"The campus is beautiful," biology department chair Karen Roy said. "I'm always pleased when someone recognizes the value of such an environment."

Containing plants from South America, Asia and elsewhere, Valley's landscape not only provides an attractive view but an educational tool for students to increase their awareness of a range of plant life.

Architectural firms Berliner & Associates and Lisa Gimmy Landscaping recently began plans for future landscaping. The two groups are creating an aesthetic master plan with Valley President Tyree Wieder and a design guideline committee in a series of workshops to build onto and enhance the landscape and

architecture, Lisa Gimmy said. The design guideline committee includes Wieder and representatives from administration, faculty, staff, and the student body.

Suggestions for placing outdoor art such as murals and fountains are included in the aesthetic assessment, Richard Berliner said.

"We hope to increase the opportunity for students to use the land for informal gatherings and studying," Gimmy said. Tentative plans for outdoor space include additional benches and seating, functional walkways, exterior classroom opportunities and more shade to create a comfortable setting for students. All contracted architects will receive a copy of the aesthetic plan mid-July, according to Berliner.

Overall, the amount of green space on campus will remain the same. Although some current outdoor areas may disappear, the plan includes new ones.

"The design team is really impressed by how park-like the campus is now," Gimmy said.

Berliner and Gimmy have looked at different ways to cut

back on maintenance costs, like replacing certain plants with hardier ones.

"For example, we could replace the hedge on Fulton with oleander," Gimmy said. "A more drought-resistant, low level plant that won't have to be cut back every year."

Gimmy hopes to have some projects initiated by the end of the year, but nothing can be determined until the aesthetic plan is complete and funds are allocated for specific projects. Further landscaping will be phased in throughout the multi-year plan.

Roy submitted a list of interesting flora on campus to URS, the corporation overseeing Valley's Proposition-A funded campus renovations, and others involved in landscaping plans. The list gives information about many unique plants on campus. The design guideline committee, members at architectural planning firms and URS are discussing plans to have campus foliage specimens labeled. The

See 'GREEN' on page 8

Alternative Fuel Autos Hit the Road

By KRISTA CARLSON AND
KATHY ARELLANO
STAFF WRITERS

America's recent military undertaking in Iraq brought many protestors to cry out against a war for oil, leaving the nation with the reality that a sustainable fuel resource is necessary. Oil won't last forever and even if it could, high emissions threaten the future of our environment.

Global warming is on the brink, threatening the world's next generation, and gas prices continue to soar. Until recently, motorists in California and neighboring states couldn't find gas for under \$2 a gallon.

The solution has been creeping in the nation for a few years now, but only recently have alternative fuel vehicles (AFV) become popular for both car manufacturers and consumers.

"The more people begin to identify with the technology, the easier it will be to sell these cars," Gauthier said. "Consumers want reliable transportation, above all."

Ray Dawson, Valley College instruction technologies department staff member, just purchased a Honda Civic hybrid last week. His primary reason for buying the hybrid was environmental, Dawson said.

"I think it is important in these times to have something that will decrease the use of fossil fuels," Dawson said. "I

think the monetary peak in gas prices has caused more people — not just those who are environmentally conscious — to look at this as an option."

His hybrid looks and runs just like a conventional car and insurance rates are comparable. "There is no sacrifice on those things," Dawson said.

Beginning with GM's EV1 in 1997, electric cars were the first AFVs to hit the market. Running solely on electric power, the cars needed no engine, tailpipe, valves or pistons. Seven on-board computers did it all, and an intelligent brake system regenerated energy and sent it back to the batteries.

GM created partnerships with power companies and commerce locations in California and Arizona and set up 1,100

charging stations, most of which were free. But with a maximum driving range of 130 miles, the car couldn't compete in the market, where most compact cars can reach over 300 miles on a full tank of gas. The six to eight hour charge time didn't fare well either. Dealers sold few, and now the car has been recalled as hybrid technology thrives in the market.

Two years ago Honda released the Insight, a quirky-looking two-seater that ran on both electricity and gasoline. Poor sales kept the car off most dealer lots, but as the new Honda Civic GX Hybrid and the Toyota Prius hit the streets, the Insight promises to enter the market again. The two-door Insight's consumer audience was limited.

See 'HYBRID' on page 8



JESUS CARRENO/VALLEY STAR

HYBRID AUTO- Ray Dawson of IT loves his new Honda Civic hybrid.

OPINION

3

STAFF EDITORIAL

Prop AA All the Way

With an increasing number of people relying on community colleges for their education, Proposition AA's passing is necessary. Roughly 128,000 students attend the nine Los Angeles Community College District campuses, almost 40 percent of whom are below the poverty line, according to online sources. It's not too much to ask the owner of a \$250,000 home to kick in \$28.63 a year to pay for it.

Voters passed the original Proposition A Spring 2001 and it gave district schools a much-needed roughly \$1.25 billion. Though this has provided the district with one of the biggest boons in its 50-year history, everyone from Chancellor Mark

Drummond to the classified workers know it's not enough to meet the district's needs. If passed, Proposition AA will provide another \$198 million to complete what its single-character predecessor did.

Among AA's endorers are the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA).

"Community Colleges are integral in preparing the work force," VICA Government Liaison Director Scott Schmidt said.

Many think it's odd to ask for renovation money during the current state budget crisis, but the bond's interest rates are lower now than they will be in the future, as well as construction costs. VICA said there's no better time to float the bond.

Kenn Phillips, co-chair of

the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, is one of the bond's champions and has worked with Valley's citizens oversight committee for some time. Speaking for local business, Proposition AA is necessary or local businesses will have to cope with an inadequately-equipped work force.

"Prop A didn't fund all that's needed for higher education for the next 50 years," Phillips said. "All it did was pay to remove and replace the temporary bungalows that have been on campus since World War II."

As the URS Corporation and Valley College's teams continue to examine the campus, more and more infrastructural problems arise. Plumbing, heating, wiring, the tab keeps rising and rising. The pretty things peo-

ple want to see like new libraries, media arts buildings and shady groves won't happen until the unseen repairs are done, and all renovations are prioritized. Sorry jocks, no new concessions stands or locker rooms until the campus complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The planned child development center and technology building are among the structures that are on the bond-measure bubble. Campus badly needs these facilities, and without the funding the current facilities will deteriorate further and be more expensive to repair. In short, passing Proposition AA saves taxpayers money in the long run.

VALLEY STAR ENDORSES:

***MONA FIELD**, member of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, office 3 for Member of the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees, office 3

***YES on Proposition AA**

Please actively seek other opinions, but don't forget to

VOTE MAY 20!

AN OPINION

AmBush on the Lincoln

By RYAN YUDELL

The president's landing on the Lincoln was... the most obvious pre-election media stunt a president's done in recent memory.

Earlier this month, the president of the United States, flying in a S-3B Viking jet, made a tail-hook landing aboard the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln. The Bush camp described the trip as an opportunity to welcome the troops home and make an official declaration of the end of major military combat in Iraq. Democrats, some of whom serve on the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee, said this excursion was nothing more than an expensive publicity opportunity for the President's re-election campaign in 2004.

Democrats have charged that additional costs for the president's visit could top \$1 million and probably delayed the 4,000 sailors aboard the Lincoln from getting home. The Bush administration has replied that no additional cost or time delay occurred from his visit.

This debate, like many coming from the political arena, goes deeper than the basic story allows us to initially understand. First, politicians love photo opportunities and the president is no exception. Second, any given politician on any given day will look for an issue that makes the opposition look bad.

Whether the presidential visit cost more money or delayed the troops was an act of patriotism to strike up morale or just a fun plane ride for the president, it just doesn't matter. To ignore the bigger picture and get consumed by the details is to miss so many more important things.

To have an opinion about the details of this type of story in hindsight may be pointless. It requires someone to politically align to a party, which politicians hope for. In these types of exchanges between parties the hope is that people will take definitive sides.

The president's landing on the Lincoln was dangerous, certainly expensive and the most obvious pre-election media stunt a president's done in recent memory. Landing a jet and dressed triumphantly in a flight suit will look fantastic in 30-second re-election commercials and that's the most likely bottom line for the Administration. There certainly was value to the sailors to see their commander-in-chief land on their deck and thank them, absolutely, but Bush strategists probably saw this as an added bonus to the media opportunity. Those who disagree should ask themselves why the media was invited at all. Certainly the sailors would have been just as happy with or without the cameras and the president would have been just fine making his declaration from the Oval Office.

But Democrats aren't guilt-free either. Attacking the president's decision was obvious, not because what the president did was wrong but because they're going to attack anything he does. Are the interests of the masses best served by a group of people so concerned with a presidential visit to an aircraft carrier? These politicians are spending countless dollars and hours hoping to shift public opinion against the president and gain ground for the 2004 elections. This was just another opportunity to do that.

Political statements usually employ tactics that serve only one specific set of ideas. The vice of politics in general is regurgitating old tactics.

AN OPINION

By KATHARINE ANDERSON

Berkeley Bans Beijing Bugs

As the world scrambles to find solutions to the SARS outbreak, UC Berkeley has taken independent steps to stop the viruses spread among their elite. Chancellor Robert M. Berdahl said students coming from China, Singapore, Taiwan and Hong Kong will be banned from enrolling in the summer session in a memo earlier this month.

The ban will affect about 500 students. The college is refunding these students' tuition fees, totaling at least \$1.5 million, but who will be responsible for the costs these students will acquire for canceling their trips? Maybe Berkeley should foot that bill, too.

It would appear that money is the reason behind this move. In the same memo, Berdahl said, "All of these students would have to be monitored for a 10-day period. Should any of them develop SARS-related symptoms, the CDC (Center for Disease Control) requires that elaborate procedures be implemented that would include isolation

and other labor intensive measures that we are not able to provide currently."

Not able to provide? It's clear Berkeley officials aren't concerned about health but about money. The university's health care facilities may not be equipped to handle it, but there are doctors and hospitals in the Bay Area. The memo should have said Berkeley isn't willing to pay these students' medical costs — let their own country and schools take care of them.

There are several new tests available to detect the SARS virus, according to the CDC. Berkeley isn't willing to refund the tuition money. That money could fund these students' testing, but instead they ban them. All sides were obviously not presented and discussed before the final decision. The students traveling here for higher education weren't considered, only Berkeley was.

Later Berkeley issued a press release saying they had lifted the ban for some students. The school will allow 80 students

from SARS-infected areas to attend because they worked aggressively to provide adequate accommodations. Surely, this had nothing to do with the strong criticism they received regarding the ban, even though Berdahl was quoted as saying "we are also very concerned that our decision to limit enrollment in our summer programs has created the impression here and abroad that UC Berkeley was actually banning students from studying here, or not welcoming Asian students at all. Nothing could be further from the truth."

The university's main concern is compromising people's health in Berkeley's community. But, unless they don't have contact with people outside the campus, there's no sure way to protect them. Now there are no travel restrictions to SARS-infected areas, just advisories. Which means people can be infected anywhere, at anytime, by anyone. Berkeley has spoken out — they believe they are the elite.

Letters to the Editor

Re ASU Elections Spark Controversy, May 7.

The pollsters at the voting booths in Monarch Square must have been very inconsistent. When I voted, I asked the people at the table if they wanted to see my student I.D. card. They said, "No, we can look up your name in the book." Obviously the pollsters were vacillating after reading your article.

If I were one of the losing candidates, I would demand some type of action or sanctions against those in charge of the voting process. Someone must be held accountable for the inconsistencies in checking the potential voter's validity.

I would at least petition for another election. This one's obviously tainted.

Stephen M. Hojda
Liberal Arts Major

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who came to the polls and voted in the Associated Student Union Executive Council elections last week. Regardless of whom you voted for, you deserve commendation for taking a few minutes to participate.

I would also like to thank Kenny Alvarado and Efrein Gonzales for a great learning experience. It was a good run and I hope you feel the same way. I'm sure we'll all be in the same corner — fighting for our educational rights.

Best Wishes to all those who are moving on. To those who will return in the fall, let's make it a memorable year.

James Brevard
ASU Commissioner of Fine Arts and president-elect

Editorial Cartoon



ILLUSTRATION BY TIFFANY FARMAKIS / VALLEY STAR

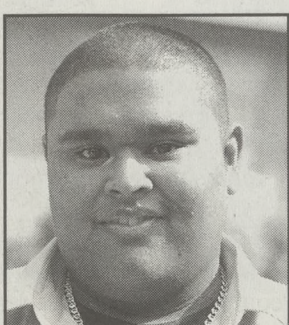
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CampusView

Should people from SARS-infected areas be allowed into the United States?



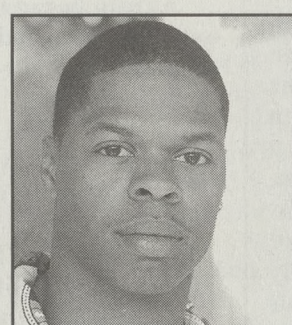
"Hell no, why bring it here. So we can all die?"

Shay Jayah



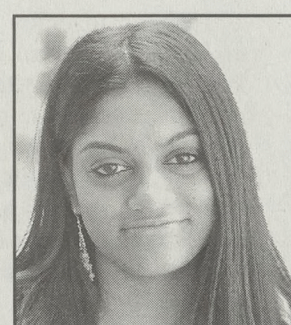
"Yes, of course it's a free country."

Joanne Megrath



"No, because we have enough diseases as it is."

Eric Bowdery



"No, because why would we want to get infected?"

Amali Dissanayake

PHOTOS BY JESUS CARREÑO

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VALLEY LIFE

UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES

California State University, Northridge
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays in Career/Transfer Center

Woodbury University
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 14
3 to 6 p.m. May 22, in Career/Transfer Center

Cal Lutheran
11 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 20 in Career/Transfer Center

MUSIC

Foothill Trio: Viola, Clarinet and Piano, 11:30 a.m. May 15, Music Recital Hall

LAVC Guitar Ensemble
Robert Mayeur, Director
8 p.m. May 16 in the Music Recital Hall. Admission charge

Hazardous Materials Pick-up, for hazardous and electronic waste
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in parking lot B.

Nursing Class Graduation
4 to 9 p.m. May 14 in Monarch Hall.

Valley Super-Mom Aims for Ivy Leagues

BY IVY DAI
STAFF WRITER

Rocio Gonzalez came to America from Mexico in 1993. Twenty years old and not knowing a word of English, she gained residency in 1998. She started her first semester at Valley College in 1998 taking remedial English.

By May 2001, Gonzalez was at the top of her class and received more than \$120,000 in grants and scholarships to attend the University of Southern California School of Architecture. The Mexican American Alumni Association awarded her a \$4,000 scholarship, a \$2,500 laptop computer and MetroLink pass for the year.

Her husband Louis is supportive, giving up his job to take care of 17-month-old Michael and her three other children, 8-year-old Louie, 7-year-old Cassandra, and 2-year-old Tiffany, while Gonzalez goes to school. Gonzalez participated in TAP at Valley, took honors classes, was vice-president of the Freshman-Sophomore Program and maintained a 3.6 GPA.

Gonzalez rides the bus three hours each way from the San Fernando Valley to attend USC. Courses are difficult, with professors giving only one 'A' per class.

"I'm the only one working now," Gonzalez said. "I spend \$60 on materials for a project that will probably go into the trash and think, that money could go to my kids."

Gonzalez continues to work half time as a mentor for Valley's Freshman-Sophomore Program. She tutors 10 students, arranges study groups, and makes

sure they do their homework. Students are sometimes at her house late nights to type their papers. Her husband Louis tutors them in math.

"I'm giving back to them what I got," Gonzalez said. "Letting them know there's something better out there. I tell them, don't think about the money. To think, I don't have the money, but today I'm going to try. Put more effort into school, get a scholarship and get out of there."

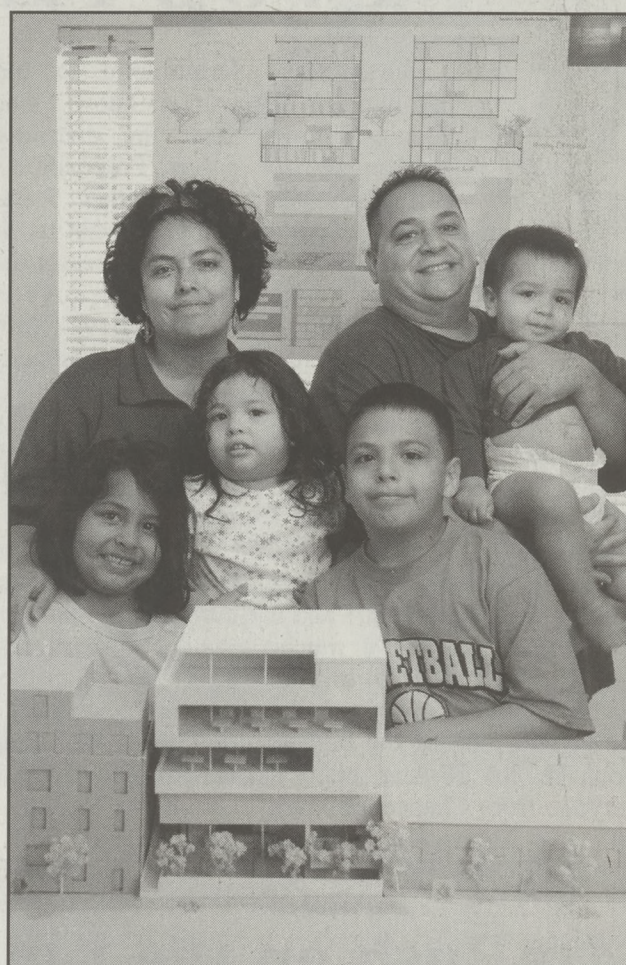
"Her being a Valley peer mentor shows that giving back is important to her," said earth science instructor Richard Raskoff. "She cares. She has heart."

Gonzalez attributes much of her success to TAP and her former instructors. "She's a dream student," mathematics instructor Norman Siever said. "If all students were like Rocio, I wouldn't have to do anything. She came late in the semester and said, 'I just want to come watch and listen.' She turned out to be one of my best students."

Gonzalez went through an emotionally difficult time before she earned the scholarships. Her mother-in-law became ill, her husband lost his job and bills were piling up. Her financial aid package wasn't enough to attend a university.

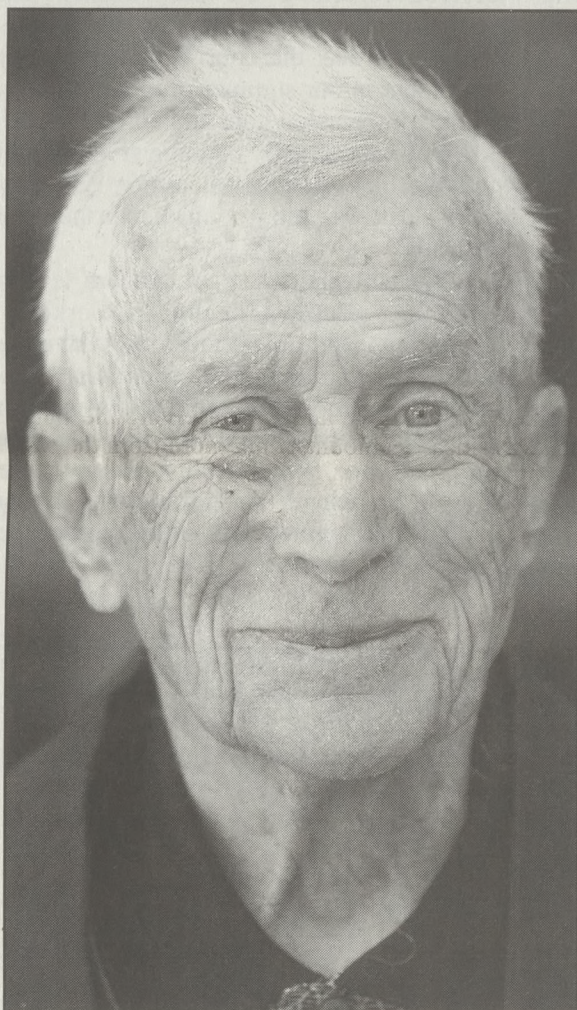
"The situation was so bad, I was going to give up," Gonzalez said. "Then I found out about the scholarships and the first thing I said was, 'Lord, is it from you?' I'm so glad I didn't quit."

Gonzalez, now 30, plans to apply to architecture master programs at Harvard, Columbia, and other Ivy League universities. Her hard work and dedication have brought Gonzalez opportunities many can only dream of, and there's no doubt this ambitious wonder-woman will make it all the way to the top.



JESUS CARREÑO / VALLEY STAR

SUPER MOM- (clockwise from top left) Rocio Gonzalez, her husband Louis, with their children Mikey, Loie, Tiffany and Cassandra.



TAMMY ABBOTT/VALLEY STAR

NOVAGENARIAN- Austin Conover is the director of the Historical Museum at Valley. He is considered by many a legend on campus.

Valley Legend Turns 90

BY CHRISTINA GRATE
STAFF WRITER

Stop by the Historical Museum at Valley College and you'll be greeted by two of the bluest, liveliest eyes on campus. Austin Conover, who celebrated his 90th birthday on Friday, is the director of the museum.

Conover was a well-known journalist in the San Fernando Valley and the editor of the Hollywood Citizen News Time. He later came to Valley and became public information officer. After he retiring 15 years ago, he stayed on as the assistant director of the Historical Museum of the San Fernando Valley, located in bungalow 15. Soon after, he became its director.

"Austin Conover's a legend at this campus," Valley President Tyree Weider said. "He's a very sweet person who has dedicated hours, days, months, years, to working at Valley College."

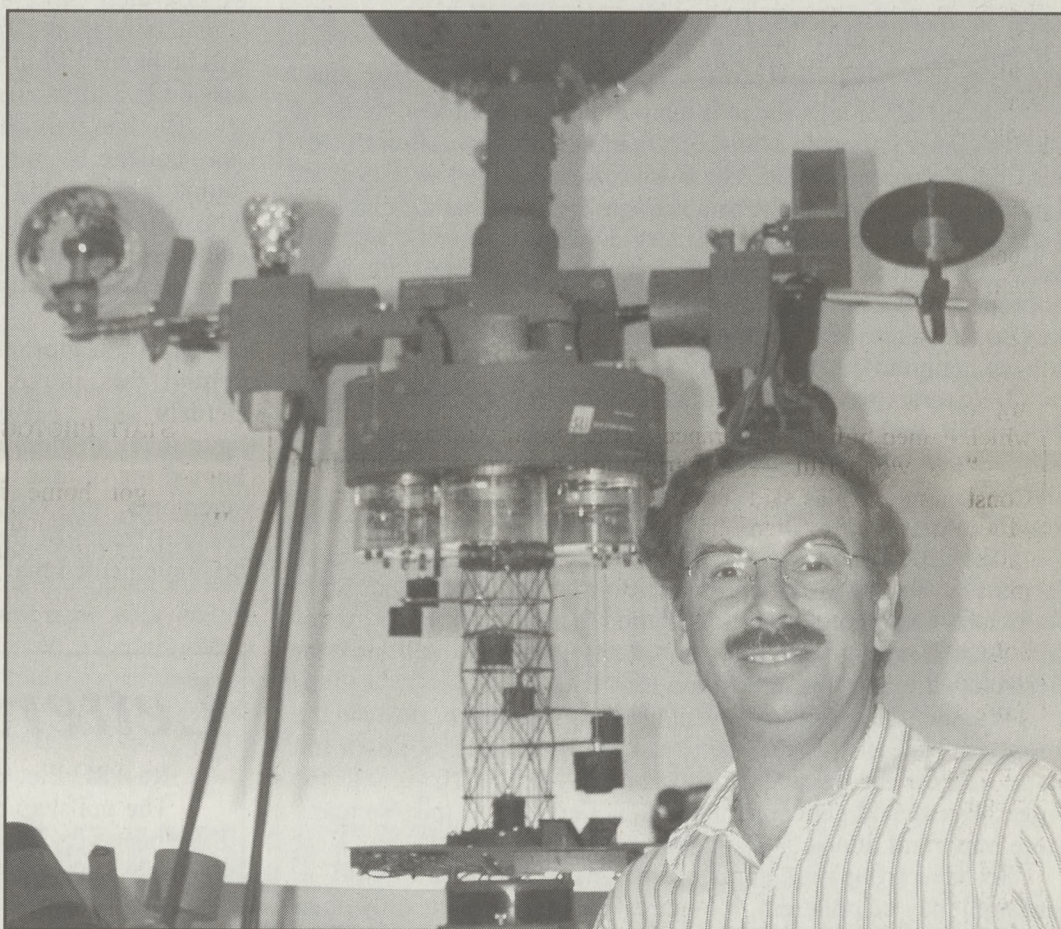
The celebration kicked off with a small reception where his friends, family and staff gathered around to greet and take photos with him. Among the attendees were his two sons, John and Tom, and one of his five granddaughters, Becky.

Heartfelt testimonials of the wonderful person who is so loved on campus soon followed. "Austin is a wonderful man," former Valley dean of education and former chair of Valley's English Department Marvin Zuckerman said. "He's been here so long. He does a beautiful job with that museum and we love him for that. We love him for being Austin."

Conover blew out the candles on his huge chocolate birthday cake after the speeches. The rest of the afternoon was filled with socializing and remembering the good times of the past.

"I wish I could go back 40 years," Conover says. "But I don't think anybody has done that before."

The Historical Museum is open 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays to Saturdays.



JESUS CARREÑO / VALLEY STAR

STAR GAZING- Astronomy professor David Falk has been working at Valley College since 1994.

Astronomy Worth Every Penny

BY JACKIE CONLEY
STAFF WRITER

Students, astronomy club members and the general public came to see the most complex show ever put on by Valley College's astronomy department.

"This is education presented in an entertaining way," planetarium director David Falk said.

With a sold-out show and a second show added, Falk and members of the astronomy club presented "The Dinosaur Chronicles."

It took four months to complete the show because the group had to purchase the copyright license and the department had to create several missing slides. They also had to recruit voice-over talents to create the audio.

"We're a basic support group," student and club member Marie Larsen said. "The club presents themselves as a launch pad to help students, astronomy and astrophysics majors."

Falk began by pointing out a few constellations, including Leo the Lion, Regulus and the big and little dippers, Ursa Major and Ursa Minor.

"I do this to let people know what they can see in the sky today," Falk said.

Moving the sky backward, Falk brought out some old but still amusing jokes.

"If you see the sky moving backwards like this in real life, run," Falk said.

Falk went on to some more educating facts about how Saturn is made of gas and how it would float if put in water. He also said Jupiter is so big that 11 earths could fit across the diameter of Jupiter and 10 earth hours equals one day on the planet.

Turning up the brightness on the planetarium, he spoke out against light pollution.

People generally think the night sky is difficult to see because of the smog. But according to Falk, the sky is unclear because of unshielded lights.

The main show about dinosaurs was projected onto the planetarium using an audiotape with time code, video, a computer and 600 slides. Using humor and a visually stunning video projection, the show kept everyone's interest on some familiar topics — how dinosaurs came to be, how they roamed the Earth and what might have caused their extinction.

But the show also contained some surprising little-known historical facts, like Richard Owen who coined the name 'dinosaur,' Latin for terrible lizard. Other interesting information included that when the dinosaurs died, three-quarters of the world's species died with them. Furthermore, smaller animals adapt to change easier than large animals.

"The dinosaurs were famous for nothing but their death," the recorded narrator said. Perhaps that's why creatures that roamed earth 65 million years ago still hold people's interest.

"They were very successful animals, and yet they died," Falk said. "We look at our past to see where we came from, why we are the way we are today and where humans might be headed."

With many people interested in astronomy, Falk intends to expand into a larger facility with new equipment and better seating. He's always trying to communicate with companies for possible donations.

Falk was impressed with the show's large crowd despite the astronomy department's lack of publicity.

"The show was worth every cent," student Heidi Nestor said. "I wish I could have paid more."

All that Glitters is Gold

SLICE OF LIFE



BY JACQUI BROWN

To quote Forrest Gump, motherhood is like a box of chocolates. When you have kids, you never know what you're getting until you bite into them, so to speak. It's a test of faith, strength, moral fortitude, endurance, patience and gratitude all rolled up into that swaddled bundle they hand you in the delivery room before sending you on your way.

Of course that brings me to the subject of Mother's Day. Once again, it has come and gone and I am as usual — exhausted. With only two of us moms still raising young children, we celebrate at one or the other's home because we are still reasonably kid-friendly in decor and toy availability and because my sister-in-law currently has her back yard torn up, we celebrated at my place, which was wonderful.

The week prior to this get-together is always filled with a self-imposed chore list, things I'd long put off, like washing window treatments, scrubbing the floors under

the beds and so on. You'd be surprised at how many things, some you thought you'd never see again, suddenly appear when you delve into the deep dark corners where I once believed the boogey man lurked, you know, down under there.

While cleaning my son's room I had to read him the riot act on when and where to use glitter. The floor was covered in tiny flecks of gold glitter, and as glitter does, it traveled throughout the house with every step of my foot. When confronted he told me it spilled, it wasn't his fault, he would try to make sure it never happened again. I managed to forgive him but only after several moments of cussing under my breath and chucking out what was left in the small vial. My daughter's room, which I sometimes refer to as the hamper because of the amount of clothes strewn about, is about a half day's work to organize, fold, wipe, dust and scrub down. Now remember, I really look forward to having the entire family

over so I go about this cleaning process willingly.

Well, the party arrives, food is aplenty, drinks are flowing, kids are laughing and the funniest thing was that my son and his youngest nephew found refuge for the most part of the day playing in our new unfilled Jacuzzi. For once, the video games found a moment of respite. Once everyone was watered and fed we sat back to enjoy the fruits of our labor, gifts from our children. My daughter managed to bring me to tears with the note included with her gift. She reminded me that what my mother was for me growing up, my rock, I too was to her — her rock. My son handed me a card and as I looked down at it, I realized finally why the glitter had covered his room. There in bright gold glitter, written on the front of the card as only an eight year old can, was "Happy Mom Day." I smiled this time as I watched the glitter go flitting through the air onto the carpet and I realized that all good intentions are absolutely forgivable.

Fine Art Fair Headline Here



ALEX DASH/VALLEY STAR

SPINNING- KVCN station manager Tony Valdez displays his scratch and turn techniques at the fifth annual Fine Arts Festival Friday night in the Mainstage Theatre.

By IVY DAI
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students stepped out of their sweatshirts and jeans and transformed into the glitzy role of stars for the Fine Arts Festival at the Mainstage Theater Friday.

"This is better than some shows I've paid to see," said Tracy Sunshine Gutierrez, who came to support master of ceremonies James Brevard, the Associated Student Union's fine arts commissioner and president-elect. Brevard was an enthusiastic host, entertaining with jokes and mocking the performers.

The performers were unlikely entertainers — teachers and students. The dim lighting and red curtains were reminiscent of 50s beatnik chic, and DJs mixed groovy hip-hop in between performances.

Jazz singer Sandra Booker crooned her way to the audience's hearts in the opening set with "Bye Bye Blackbird." The Frank Collett Trio of Dale Fielder, Gary Pratt and Howard Kurham provided saxophone, cello and drum music. Booker has performed with Billy Mitchell, Harry Connick, Jr. and Grammy Award-winner Lalo Schiffrin.

A flexible salsa duo pointed mock guns and folded like putty in a fast-paced dance to the James Bond 007 theme. Other highlights were reggae singer Lady Justice, who swayed her hips and "boo-ya-ka'ed" the crowd into a frenzy. A flute player accompanied a poignant, modern dance that Carla Lubow choreographed.

Perhaps the most gut-busting show of talent was a videotape of Brevard making out with an old grandma on the Jamie Kennedy show. Brevard was under the impression he was at a routine casting call and went through a second "rehearsal" with the grandma, which gained him an appearance on the Oprah Winfrey show.

"It's wonderful — a variety of performers," participant Constantine Savalas said. Savalas sang "Empty Chairs" from Les Misérables. Pianist Diana Verdi played a lilting self-composition called "Childhood Memories," and the smooth, melodious Marquis Irons-Clark rapped about infatuation and love.

Ivan Corona showcased a polished student film about alcoholic husbands and domestic abuse, while Jose Rosalez pondered the gloomy subject of suicide and love in his monologue "Forever Knight: Last Knight."

A poem written by David Muñoz railed on the workings of the American government, the irony of misogyny, welfare, and being pregnant. Ignacio Ferrera performed the untitled poem.

Belly dancers, poets, singers, and actors also graced the stage. Sign language interpreter Marlene Daniels interpreted for the hearing-impaired in the audience.

"At Valley, you're here to make your dreams, if you just try, just try," Brevard said. The Fine Arts Festival certainly gave these promising performers an opportunity to make those dreams happen.



JORGE GALLEGOS/VALLEY STAR

SILHOUETTE- A student walks to class as the sun sets behind her.

Television and Radio Personalities Rock Monarch Hall

By BILLIE JORDAN
STAFF WRITER

More than 250 people came to Monarch Hall Saturday to experience a jazz concert and buffet hosted by the Instrumental Women Project. Radio and television personalities along with two hours of jazz variety presented by two all-female bands entertained jazz lovers.

"It feels good when the house is packed and there's standing room only," said Laquetta Shamblee, founder of Instrumental Women. Bebop, spiritual and smooth jazz created a mellow, sophisticated jazz atmosphere.

KKJZ 88.1 FM radio personality James Janisee was the "the gentleman of jazz," the soul of the afternoon and the master of ceremonies. Janisee introduced the two all-female bands with his familiar and smooth DJ personality.

Lesia Terry and her uptown string quartet, who's a violinist and music department staff member at California State University, Los Angeles, led the performance. Their creative mixture of deeply voiced slave poetry, spiritual Jazz and singing moved the audience.

"The poetry sprinkled the music and added depth to their performance," West Los Angeles College music student John Holcomb said.

KTLA channel 5's top helicopter traffic reporter Jennifer York and her all-female quartet, one of Los Angeles' most popular jazz bands, changed the pace of the afternoon with youthful jazzy melodies like "Scuttling for the Apple." Their performance inspired screams from the audience.

"The first group was good, but this group — now this is the kind of jazz that I like, they really got down," West Los Angeles college student Brandon Jones said. "I realize I must seem like a total freak

in this skirt, what was I thinking?" York said.

She entertained the audience by playing a large bass that sat between her legs. Her grooving included rocking, bending and clapping her legs against the bass.

At one point she alternated the bass with a guitar and tried to briefly impersonate Elvis. The audience was captivated.

"I enjoyed looking at her as she was walking back and forth, but on stage the skirt has got to go," a mobile recording company associate John Falzano said.

"Sexy group of gals, especially Jennifer and the pianist," spectator Sal Hartman said.

"They were all excellent performers with consummate skills indeed," UCLA ethnomusicology professor Cheryl Keys said.

The Instrumental Women's Mother's Day Weekend Jazz Buffet was sponsored by the Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department and the and by Valley College student services' office.



*True
Chanteuse*

Marina Kesler sang Ira Gershwin and Jerome Kern's "Long Ago and Far Away" at the Music Recital Hall Thursday. She played guitar and was accompanied by piano.

photo and text by Salvador Aguilar

A Final Visit with Grandma

By BENJAMIN FAVELA
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

I got home from school Wednesday around 9:30 p.m. I was in a good mood, I couldn't wait to tell my family my accomplishments regarding that week's issue of the Valley Star. But before I could share my joy with my mother and grandmother, my mom approached me with a somber look and wet eyes.

"Benjamin," she began as she grabbed my arm.

I knew the rest of the sentence before her tongue could formulate it. My great-grandmother had died.

I've never been able to verbalize my feelings and emotions to others very well. It has always been easier for me to express myself through writing. I'm not sure if it's a fear of rejection, maybe it's a fear of the other person not caring. Or maybe it's just the fact that paper has the inability to interrupt me and talk back. Regardless, there are about 20 notebooks stashed away in my room that I call my true confidants.

So, after hearing the news, I decided to write. There's been a huge loss in my family. Out of all the people in my family who have died, the one who I was closest to and had the most respect for was Elvira Villa, my great-grandmother.

I'm not crying, I'm sniffling because I'm getting over a cold. I'm not crying.

But I was. I couldn't control it. I don't cry easily, but when I do, it flows like a leaky faucet — drip by agonizing drip.

The last time I saw my great-grandmother was a month ago. We went to go visit her because we had known for quite some time she was in her last months and we wanted to have a more recent good-bye.

I hadn't seen her in about six years and I was anxious to see if she was as sick as all my aunts and cousins said. More importantly, I wanted to see my great-grandmother, the woman who took it upon herself to tell me my family history, the matriarch of the Villa family, on her deathbed.

I intentionally hyped up in my mind what I was going to be seeing. I imagined a bony

woman, no more than a skeleton with a thin layer of skin too large and too loose. I imagined a sad, pained woman who was incapable of comprehending her daily visitors, who constantly screamed and yelled, crying and praying to God to make the pain stop.

What I saw was a mixture of what I had imagined and what I had not. I saw a woman who was in pain with loose skin who had trouble remembering things. However, the woman I saw was not sad. Bedridden, incoherent and arthritic, my great-grandmother had as much life in her then as she always had.

In the room there was a slight, strange funk of uncleanness, a mixture of dirty clothes, urine and stale bed linens. She was laying on a donated broken electric hospital bed, clinging to the rail as if in a perpetual state of falling. I introduced myself to her about three times before she finally recognized me. Then she began to sing and dance with her shoulders along to the mariachi songs playing from the radio.

Through conversing with this frail old woman who was to

be dead in a matter of, it was obvious she had a lot of love to give and was receiving the same amount, if not more from the rest of my family.

Now that she is dead, that is mainly what I have to remember her by: her love. Besides that, all I have are stories, like how she would wake up at 6:30 a.m. and pray for every child and grandchild in the family, then five years later she would have to wake up at 5:30 since more children were born.

I am done crying now, the tears dried about two hours ago. I'm not sure if I will be saying anything at my great-grandmother's funeral, it's so hard for me to write it out, let alone saying it. Maybe I'll read this.

All I know is there's been a huge loss in my family, and that I don't verbally articulate myself easily to others. It's been so much easier for me to write my good-byes than to speak them.

Good-bye, Grandma. Job well done.

See Gallery "A Grandchild's Final Gooby," page 9

A.P.P.L.E. Club Brings Poetry to School Kids

Valley College's Academic People Promoting A Loving Education (A.P.P.L.E.) Club presented "A Mother's Day Poetry Workshop," Saturday in Campus Center room 104. In the picture at right, club adviser La Vergne Rosow works with Dele Fashola on a Mother's Day card.

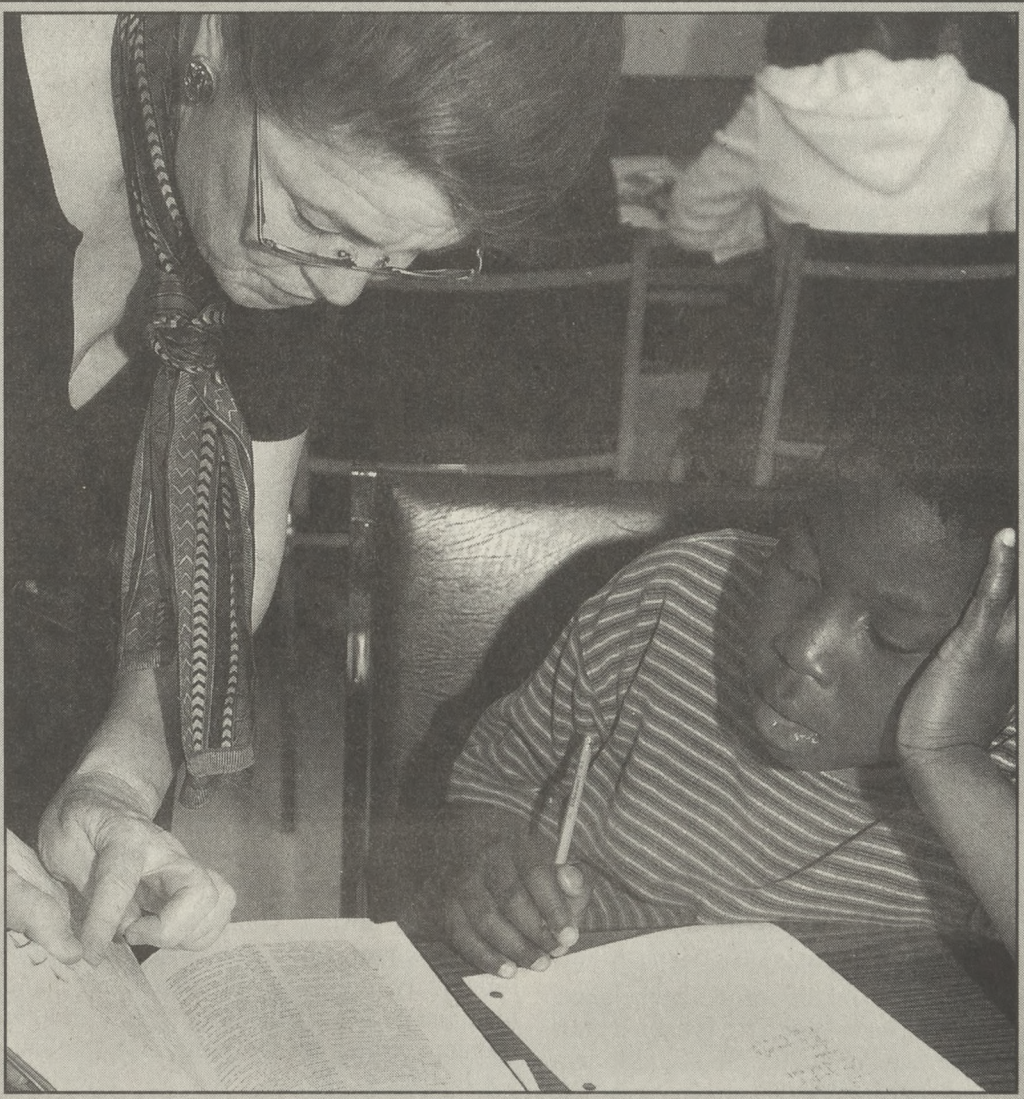
Children and adults of all ages assisted and guided club members. They provided all attendees with supplies and assistance in creating a personal Mother's Day poem and creating a one of a kind card.

"The club members have purchased things out of their own pockets and we have presented a budget to the Inter-Club Council to see if they could cover the expenses of today's event," club member Eric Rodriguez said.

Around 100 people were expected to attend throughout the day-long learning session, which concluded with a reading ceremony dedicated to the mothers there.

"This is definitely a learning experience, not just for me," Rodriguez said. "But also for the people who showed up to our event."

text by Christina Grate
photo by Tammy Abbott



SPORTS

Football Combine
Trains JC PlayersBY JAYSON ADDCOX
STAFF WRITER

The 3rd annual JC Football.com Combines offer a great opportunity for football players to showcase their talents. This year's combine was held at Santa Ana College, and more than 200 hundred freshmen and sophomore football players attended.

A few Monarchs attended the event participating in competitions in front of hundreds of coaches and scouts. Richard Brown was a Monarch who competed, hoping to attract the attention of coaches from four-year universities. More than 50 coaches were at the event.

"It was good a lot of players were there, the competition was good," Brown said.

It's a great opportunity to get recognition for many athletes, especially sophomores whose JC career is over but have yet to sign to a four-year.

"The idea is for the guys to

be seen, and get their performance recorded for four-year schools," Valley head football coach Ron Ponciano said.

The players are able to compete in four different categories: 40-yard dash, bench press, shuttle run and vertical jump. Each player can scratch any bad performance and doesn't have to compete in all categories. After the individual testing, players go to either offensive or defensive workouts.

"My all around game felt good," Brown said. "I think I did good in all the events."

The JC Football.com Combines hold a Southern California and Northern California competition. More and more players and coaches participate in the event each year.

"I've been to other combines and played in front of scouts before," Brown said. "So for me it just hypes me up more."



BOB TEICHMANN / VALLEY STAR

ON THE GRIDIRON- Monarch Football Head Coach Ron Ponciano discusses strategy during a time-out.

NBA Playoffs Into Semi-Finals

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

The semifinals are underway and so far the New Jersey Nets are the only team that has advanced to the conference championships. The rest of the field is even through four games.

The New Jersey Nets dominated the Boston Celtics, sweeping them with ease and advancing to next round. The Nets, led by all-star point guard Jason Kidd, have used their speed and court savvy to eliminate the Celtics from the playoffs. The Celtics received superb play from Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker, but it wasn't enough as the Nets defeated the Celtics 110-101, in double overtime Monday night.

In the other Eastern Conference semifinal, the Philadelphia 76ers bounced back at home to tie the series against the favored Detroit Pistons at 2-2. Allen Iverson has been unstoppable in the last two

games using his quickness to get to the basket. In game four, Iverson had 36 points and 11 assists to lead the 76ers to 95-82, victory.

"It was a pick your position thing," Iverson said. "And after a while I wanted to run it every play they couldn't adjust to it."

The Pistons won the first two games at home and need to recapture the style of play that got them ahead in the series. Although the Pistons were without point guard Chauncey Billups for two games, he will start the next game.

The Lakers were able to dig themselves out their grave, winning two in row at home and send the series back to San Antonio. The Lakers won game four 99-95 although they trailed by as many 16 points in the second quarter. The Lakers rallied in the fourth quarter, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant led the way and sealed the victory in the

final seconds. Kobe Bryant finished with 35 points and stole an inbound pass from Tony Parker with 11 seconds. Shaquille O'Neal added 29 points and took 17 rebounds.

The Kings and Mavericks are at it again, but this time it looks like the Mavericks may have the advantage. The series is tied at two and headed back to Dallas, but the big story is whether or not the Kings can win without power forward Chris Webber who is injured.

"We've always felt confident even after losing him," Kings Coach Rick Adelman said. "We have the type of people who can step up and win."

The Mavericks won game three in double overtime Saturday, 141-137, behind reserve guard Nick Van Exel's hot shooting. The Kings bounced back to even the series Sunday, with a 99-83 win in Sacramento. Dallas point guard Steve Nash said it had the making of a long series.

New
Womens'
Soccer
CoachBY ALEJANDRO GUZMAN
STAFF WRITER

Valley College has named Eric Archila as its women's new soccer coach. The 33-year-old comes from Los Angeles City College, where he coached against soccer powerhouses such as Pasadena, El Camino, and Long Beach for three years. He decided it was time to go after having a difficult season last year.

"There's only so much you can do," Archila said. "I felt it was time to move on."

Archila was born and lived in Guatemala until he was 14, where he was encouraged to play soccer as soon as he could walk. From there he moved to Hollywood. Archila served eight years in the U.S. Navy and played for the Navy soccer team as well as the Armed Forces team. Later he lived in Urawa, Japan, where he played in a semi-pro club team named the Red Diamonds.

"He's young, eager, and energetic," Valley athletic director Chuck Ferrero said. We're excited about the upcoming season."

The coach prefers the English Premier League to any other because of the advanced level of play.

"They have a faster game," Archila said. "The game is more entertaining for the fans."

Archila said his favorite soccer player is Manchester United's Juan Sebastian Veron, better known as "La Brujita." "He has adjusted very well since joining Manchester United," Archila said. "He's a big team player who always gives it 100 percent." This philosophy fits well with Archila's own, always demanding that players play for the team's advancement and not selfish reasons.

The new coach is excited about next season despite only having one returning player. He's done some serious recruiting and is excited by the amount of talent the new team members display.

"Valley College will be represented," Archila said. "I think we can expect a complete 180-degree turn."

Coach Archila believes in strong coaching and realizes he must make use of every player to win.

"I always teach to adjust to what's given to you," Archila said. "I will take credit for the wins and the losses."

Former Monarchs Now Pros

BY JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITOR

Three former Valley football players reached the NFL ranks after signing contracts to play in the upcoming season.

All three players were a part of the 2000 Valley football team. Julian Battle went on to the University of Tennessee and the Kansas City Chiefs drafted him in the third round, 92nd overall. Battle is a corner back and is expected to see playing time in

the upcoming season.

Wide receiver Jerome Riley attended Washington State and finished his collegiate career by participating in this year's Rose Bowl in Pasadena. He recently signed with the Tennessee Titans.

Shawn Price a six-one, 233-pound defensive end played at North Carolina State for the last two seasons. He will join the Carolina Panthers.



ALEX DASH / VALLEY STAR

SPEEDO RAID- Ferocious female swim team members capture teammate Rudy Suissi and attempt to disrobe him.

In Praise of the 3-2 Curveball

BY MICHAEL ORDOÑA
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Greg Maddox is my kind of pitcher. Fireballers like Randy "Big Unit" Johnson and Roger "Rocket" Clemens get most of the ink, but Greg "No Nickname" Maddox just goes out there quietly and wins.

Guys like the Atlanta Braves' Maddox, the Mariners' Jamie Moyer, and the San Francisco Giants' Kirk Rueter are control artists. They rely on subtle changes of speed and location to befuddle the world's greatest hitters. They live on the corners of the plate, nipping the black with crafty breaking stuff while sinewy maulers like Sosa and Piazza fume with bat in hand, screaming at the

pitchers to challenge them with fastballs just once.

They also belie the notion that baseball is a simple game. They have to out-think you because they can't blow it by you. They might throw an 86-mph cut fastball that moves in on your hands (all you can do is pull it foul, strike one), followed by a big, bending 78-mph curve that just nips the outside corner (which you give up on, strike two), come upstairs with a surprisingly hard 88-mph cutter out of the zone (which you reflexively foul back, still oh-and-two), and then finish you off by dropping a straight change – which looks exactly like that cutter, but doesn't break – just off the outside

edge (couldn't decide if it was the cutter or the curve, could you? You wave at it hilariously and top it back to Maddox – the 13-time Gold Glove – who throws you out by 30 feet).

These are the guys who can go out there without their best stuff and win. Brain-dead heavies (their term, not mine) like Cincinnati's storied Nasty Boys or (the ultimate brain-dead athlete in any sport) John Rocker have to be feeling right and firing that 98-mph heat or they get taken deep with regularity. They put terrific strain on their arms, often due to unsound mechanics, and have short, erratic careers.

See 'PRAISE' on page 7

JAYSON ADDCOX
SPORTS EDITORAn
OpinionL.A. Lakers:
Once and Future
Champions

I'm an optimist. The Lakers will win a fourth consecutive championship. Why not? They've done the improbable before. This year is like no other: cruise through the regular season, struggle in the playoffs, and satisfy in the end.

It's hard to be a Lakers fan. The regular season usually keeps me at the edge of my seat, hoping we can turn things around in time for the playoffs. Then come the playoffs... the dreaded playoffs. Yes, I know the Lakers will end up champions. That's what I tell myself year after year. Well, this year I almost became a cynic. The Timberwolves threatened to take us to the limit, and now the Spurs, the asterisks champions, are bringing it to us winning six in a row before we were able to capture one.

Let's go back three years. The Portland Trailblazers had a 15-point lead late in the third quarter. Then came the "Shaw-Shaq-Redemption." I remember Brian Shaw hitting for three and Shaquille O'Neal slamming home the Kobe Bryant pass. It was pure bliss.

Now we need some more magic. The playoffs bring out the best in our Lakers, but it seems the rest of the league is catching the same fever. Last year it took a miraculous three-point buzzer beater by Robert Horry in game four against the Kings to keep us a live. What's in store this year?

Just last week the Spurs had us down 0-2, but once again the purple and gold came right back. Now with the series tied 2-2, the stress run has just begun. The playoffs haven't been easy in the past and this year is no different. Rick Fox is out, and we already miss him. Devean George has a bad ankle, but at least he's able to play. And now Phil Jackson had to have surgery to clear a blocked artery. He missed Sunday's game and we managed to win, but can we do without him the next game in San Antonio? Things are looking a bit rough, but the bottom line is the Lakers are the defending champions and until that changes we own the court. I'll see you at this year's parade.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NBA

Sacramento Kings Power Forward Chris Webber will miss the rest of the playoffs with a torn medial meniscus. The injury will require arthroscopic surgery. He is expected to make a full recovery.

NHL

The Anaheim Mighty Ducks are just two wins away from their first ever finals appearance. The Ducks defeated the Minnesota Wild 2-0 Monday, behind the play of goaltender Jean-Sebastien Giguere. Rob Niedermayer and Kurt Sauer

scored shorthanded goals to give the Ducks the 2-0 series lead.

MLB

Texas Rangers slugger Rafael Palmeiro joined the prestigious 500 Homerun club Sunday, blasting a shot into the right field bleachers against the Cleveland Indians. Palmeiro became only the 19th player in baseball history to accomplish the feat.

NFL

Dallas Cowboys second-year running back Ennis Haywood died Sunday of an undisclosed illness. He was 23.

'Hybrid'

continued from page 2

"It rules a lot of people out, anybody with a family can't get a two-seat car," fleet manager at Miller Honda Kevin MacNamara said. "I haven't sold one in nine months, but I keep getting inquiries, so we've decided to stock it again."

Honda released the Civic hybrid this year, and sales have

been high. MacNamara said. Miller Honda is the valley's largest Honda dealer and has sold almost 30 new Civic hybrids.

"They work exceptionally well," MacNamara said. "You just start it and drive it, like a normal car."

Toyota's Prius hybrid also hit the streets at a surprising rate.

"Sales had been pretty good on hybrids all along," fleet man-

ager Fred Simon of Smith Toyota said. "But since gas went above \$2 per gallon, we have had many high line gas guzzlers traded in on hybrids."

The fuel economy on hybrids averages about 50 miles a gallon, but the small Honda Insight gets up to 70 miles a gallon, making it the highest-mileage car on the market ever. Fuel economy on the regular Civic is in the mid-30 range.

'Praise'

continued from page 6

Maddox, on the other hand, has been at it for 16 years and has won 15 games in 15 straight seasons. Kirk Rueter, he of the 86-mph fastball, has one of the best winning percentages among active pitchers. Moyer, the very picture of the crafty lefty, is chugging right along into his 40s — and getting better with age. The Nasty Boys are all out of baseball and John Rocker should be.

Not only that, these so-called junkballers are superb fielders. They throw strikes, lots and lots of them. They keep their infielders involved with constant streams of confused groundouts. They throw a minimum of pitches and keep the games moving — it's not uncommon for a Maddox game to finish up in just over two hours, as

opposed to the three plus for which baseball has become infamous.

Most of all, though, these guys are competitors.

You've got to have the guts of a burglar to face the mythical beasts these guys do every start. Tell me you'd like your job to depend on getting a very slow fastball by colossi like Barry Bonds. They go with unconventional pitch sequences, in unconventional locations, because if you're looking for that not-very-fastball in the right spot, you're launching one that could violate missile treaties in Iceland.

So they set you up. They move the ball around. And when they get behind you, they're not afraid to throw that breaking ball that most pitchers wouldn't dare to try with a three-ball count.

For the uninitiated, it's a general rule in baseball that, once the hitter gets ahead (say, two balls and one strike, or three-and-one), the pitcher is

going to throw the pitch that's easiest to get over for a strike — the fastball. And most Major League pitchers made it the show because in that situation they can bring it at 93 or 94 miles an hour and challenge you to hit it. Unfortunately, most Major League hitters are there because they can turn great heaters around when they're looking for them. Pitchers know, though, that anything but a fastball (breaking ball, curve, changeup, whatever) is tougher to control and may well be ball four.

Not these guys.

So next time you're watching one of these artists painting the corners and he gets into one of those rare situations where he's behind the hitter, look for that nasty three-and-two curveball from the skinny dude with the guts of a burglar, and watch the hitter trudge back to the dugout, mumbling, "How did I not hit that guy?"

'Runoff'

continued from page 1

issues are coming up." Wieder added that without Prop AA, the plans laid out at Valley College to renovate the older structures, the new technology building along with the child development center may never happen.

Garcia comes to this runoff after her first bid for a seat on the board and has been busy on the campaign trail as well, attending community group meetings, church services and talking to as many voters as she can to encourage them to vote.

"We don't have real advocates at the community college level like the UCs and the CSUs do," said Garcia, who has been an educator, analyst and mediator for several large corporations. "That's where I see myself. What is lacking is the unity amongst the students on all nine community college cam-

pus."

Garcia pointed out that the board only has one student representative and wants, to include a representative from each campus in part to help corral support and create change.

"It's sad to see, when the rallies take place, we can be so isolated, especially when community members leave it up to the students," Garcia said. "We need a larger voice."

Senator Gloria Romero (Dem.-Los Angeles) and Assemblyman Mervyn Dymally (Dem.-El Monte) endorse Garcia, as well as Wilma Bennett, who lost her bid for a seat on the board in the March election. Pat Owens, former board of trustees member and current president of the Community College Coalition, also supports Garcia and is very confident she'll win.

"The key issue here is letting people know that you're dealing with a board that's totally controlled by a special interest group — the AFT College Guild," Owens said. "The students have absolutely no voice in the Los Angeles Community College District. The public deserves a person like Garcia on the board to represent the students and their best interest."

"This is a board that was elected by constituents in Los Angeles and has turned this district around," said Joanne Waddell, AFT union steward at Valley. "This district has experienced growth and re-vitalization. The board has a vision and I don't see how that's not in a student's best interests. That's exactly the kind of representation that helps our students now and in the future."

Distance Education Software Arrives at Valley

By KRISTA CARLSON
NEWS EDITOR

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Distance education offers students a maximum level of versatility. They can access the "classroom" from any location online at any time. Foothill College created and licensed the distance education program to Valley at a low cost, Marteney said.

In the past, distance educa-

tion programs like instructional television offered students the option of taking a class from any location but always at a set time. Similarly, resources like the writing center and learning resource center are available in a range of time, but at a set location. Distance education matches the accommodating qualities of both.

"Say you want to take a class online but you also want to go to Europe," Marteney said. "You can do both."

The software creates a location where teachers can post lessons and assignments, give tests and share messages. But the program has its critics.

"I wouldn't take them because you don't get the same interaction with people in the classroom," student Mayra

Morales said.

Valley offered five distance education classes this semester, including child development 1, English 28, and three computer applications and office technologies classes. With the new software and education of faculty, the program's expansion will be able to benefit working, parenting, and travel-impaired students. Ambitious students can increase units by taking additional classes at their own time and pace, along with a regular class load.

English professor Marion Heyn runs the distance education, but was unavailable for comment. She can be reached at heynm@lavc.edu.

Christina Grate contributed to this report.

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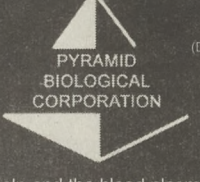
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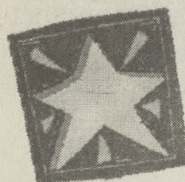
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continued from page 1

start.”
The sound startled the attacker, who ran toward the music building. The victim tried to look at him but it was useless, the campus was too dark.

“I started crying out loud and a guy heard me,” she said. “He came over to help, took down my phone number, called my parents and waited with me until they arrived.”

When they returned home her parents phoned the LAPD, who told them they’d send someone right away. The family waited, but no one came. The next day the student returned to school and reported the incident to the campus sheriff’s office.

Authorities couldn’t gather evidence from the scene because a day had passed since the attack, according to detective Steven Gutierrez.

“The sad part is she thought it was her fault,” Gutierrez said. Because he has a 14-year-old daughter and he couldn’t help but take personal interest in the case. “The victim thought the type of clothes she was wearing had something to do with it.”

“I wasn’t wearing anything fancy,” she said. She wore tight black pants and a regular shirt and referred to her look as “messy” compared to some other girls at school.

Authorities have spotted a suspicious looking man lurking around the campus at night, but with no hard evidence they can’t arrest him. Since no one could identify the woman’s attacker, the detective had nothing to build a case.

“This is a case of who did it,” Gutierrez said. He found a possible suspect after searching through information from Megan’s Law. Megan’s Law is named after a 7 year-old girl from New Jersey who was brutally raped and murdered by her

neighbor; a two-time convicted sex offender. Megan’s Law requires convicted sex offenders to register with the police department where they live. If they don’t register and get caught, they face stiff penalties, including more jail time.

The suspect is a 34-year-old black male who’s been incarcerated for 17 years for various criminal acts including burglary, possession of narcotics, assault, attempted murder and sex crimes. He was released in February with three years parole. Gutierrez found that the man frequently visited his ex-wife and children across the street from the school campus. Sex offenders can’t live near a school, according to California Penal Code section 290. In addition, Senate Bill Four went into effect October 2002 requiring all sex offenders who enter a college campus to register every semester.

Gutierrez contacted the man’s parole officer, who agreed there was a safety issue regarding Valley College and Grant High School. Together they intend to stop all visiting rights.

“Just because something bad happens at school doesn’t mean the school is bad,” the victim said. “I love Valley.” She said Valley has a better environment compared to Pierce, where she attended three years ago. She said she was never concerned about her safety before the attack but thinks colleges should have guarded entries.

She said night students aren’t safe because of a lack of security and taking night classes is necessary for this 28-year-old who works days. She wants to be a graphic artist and is happy to be in her last semester at Valley. She is leaving with a new view on safety.

“Take a self defense class or always walk with someone,” she said. “Carry a spray or something to protect yourself.” She said everyone shouldn’t let the possibilities of danger hold them hostage from living life.

‘Green’

continued from page 2

proposed engraved tags are expensive and vandalism has destroyed many previous ones, Roy said.

Roy and Valley’s head gardener Jack Epling support using the campus as an educational tool, despite their different views on the plant life.

Roy and the biology department feel the trees’ “excessive trimming” makes it impossible for them to obtain samples for their students.

“As educators we prefer to be able to grab a leaf, a flower, a seed and allow students to see it up close,” Roy said.

A lack of communication between biology professors and landscapers may be to blame for the pruning they call excessive.

“If the biology professors need a specific tree for class and they need that tree to be cut lower,” Epling said, “they just have to call me and say ‘Jack this tree is the one we need.’”

‘EIR’

continued from page 2

Wieder said, addressing the meeting’s low attendance.

MF&A will complete the EIR this summer. The Los Angeles Community College District will approve it in September.

“The EIR process has to be completed and certified by the district Board of Trustees before the college can proceed with the master plan,” Lisecki said.

Another public meeting for comments on the draft EIR will be held May 27 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the cafeteria conference room. Comments on the draft EIR may be submitted to Valley public relations director Cindy Sardo until June 16.

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English professor Marion Heyn runs the distance education, but was unavailable for comment. She can be reached at heynmg@lavec.edu.

Christina Grate contributed to this report.

‘Revise’

continued from page 1

vote to pass a bill like this quickly, it’s usually a strategy to get rid of the proposal and move on to a better one,” said Pirikana “P.J.” Johnson, California Student Association of Community Colleges president and student body president of Compton Community College.

‘Awards’ continued from page 1

anything in high school, now I’m doing it all in college. This just shows that anyone can do it.”

Valley President Tyree Wieder offered words of encouragement and explained the importance of balancing civic

duties and academics to ASU president-elect James Brevard.

“You guys have certainly got big shoes to fill,” Wieder said. “I’ve seen so many great student leaders fall behind in their school work because they

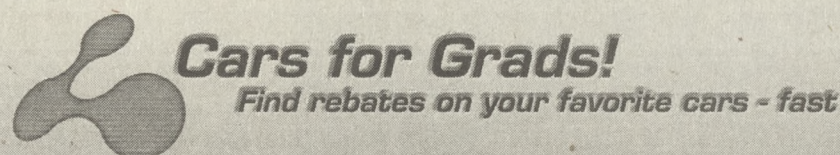
don’t learn how to balance the two jobs. The ASU presidency is a very important position. You just can’t forget that the most important part of the position is being a student.”

VALLEY COLLEGE ASU AWARDS RECIPIENTS

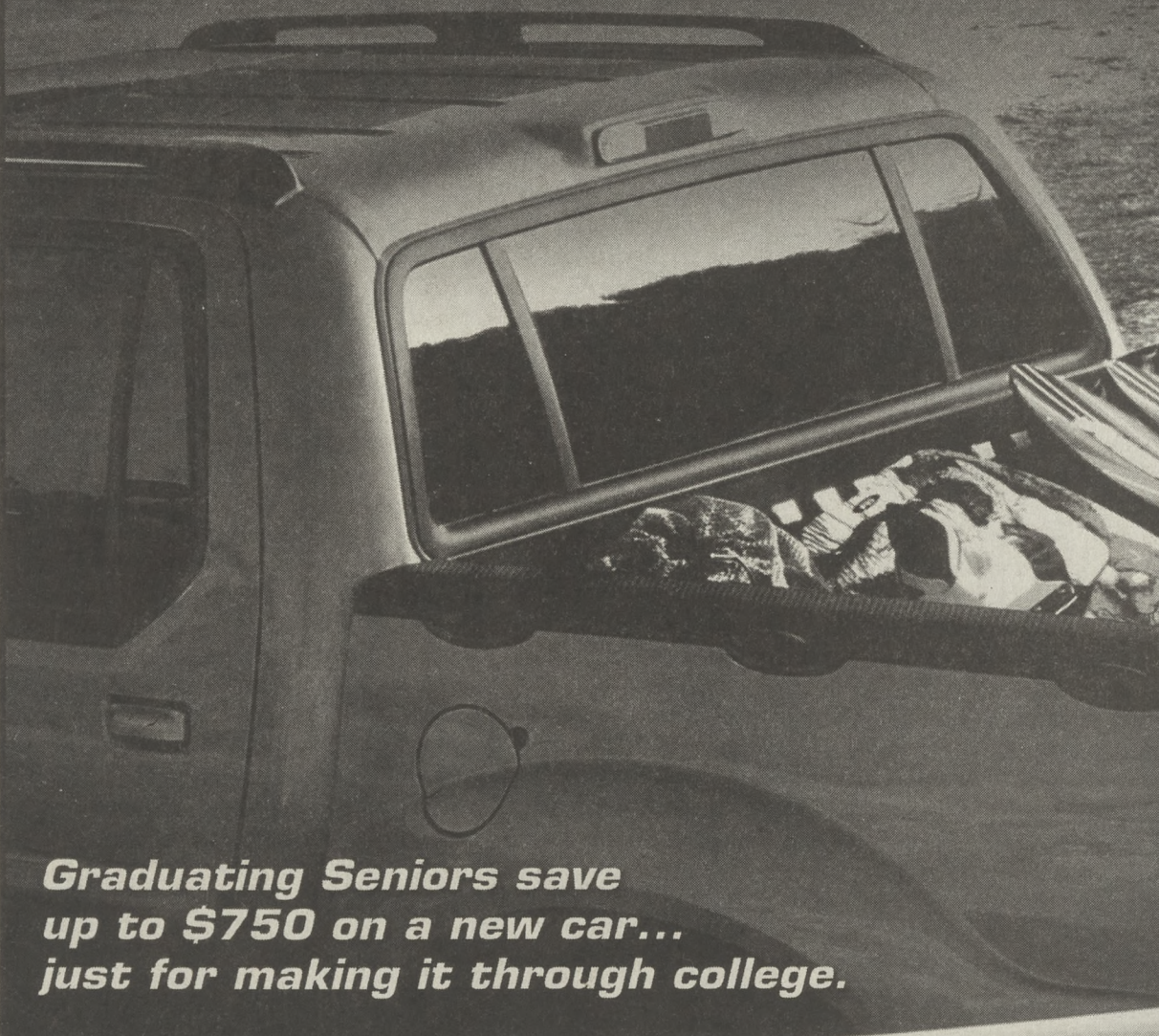
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A Grandchild's Final Goodbye



Elvira Villa, my great-grandmother, died May 7. These photographs were taken three-and-a-half weeks before she passed.

Born in 1914, she lived and raised her seven children in El Paso, Texas. Elvira was known to give very good advice when she thought it was needed and for being a great cook. She was famous for her enchiladas and menudo, an authentic Mexican soup with tripe, hominy and chili, which takes hours to prepare. All food she made was from scratch.

Being Catholic, she prayed heavily. She would wake up at about 5:30 a.m. to pray for every

member of the family and never forgot a birthday. As somebody grew older, they could guarantee a check in the mail would come from Elvira Villa for \$5.

Elvira married Joe Villa at age 16 in 1930. During their 47-year marriage they had eight children, one of whom was still-born, 15 grandchildren, 27 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. Her husband died from cancer in 1978 and two sons, Joe and George, died in 1996 and 2001, respectively.

This was the last time I saw my great-grandmother alive. Though it was sad to see her pass, I know she is now out of

pain and comfortable. I didn't get a chance to visit her often because she lived in El Paso. I hadn't seen her in about six years and it was a change, seeing a once young-hearted, silly woman become a frail, homebody who hadn't left the house in months. Though changed, she still had the heart that made her famous.

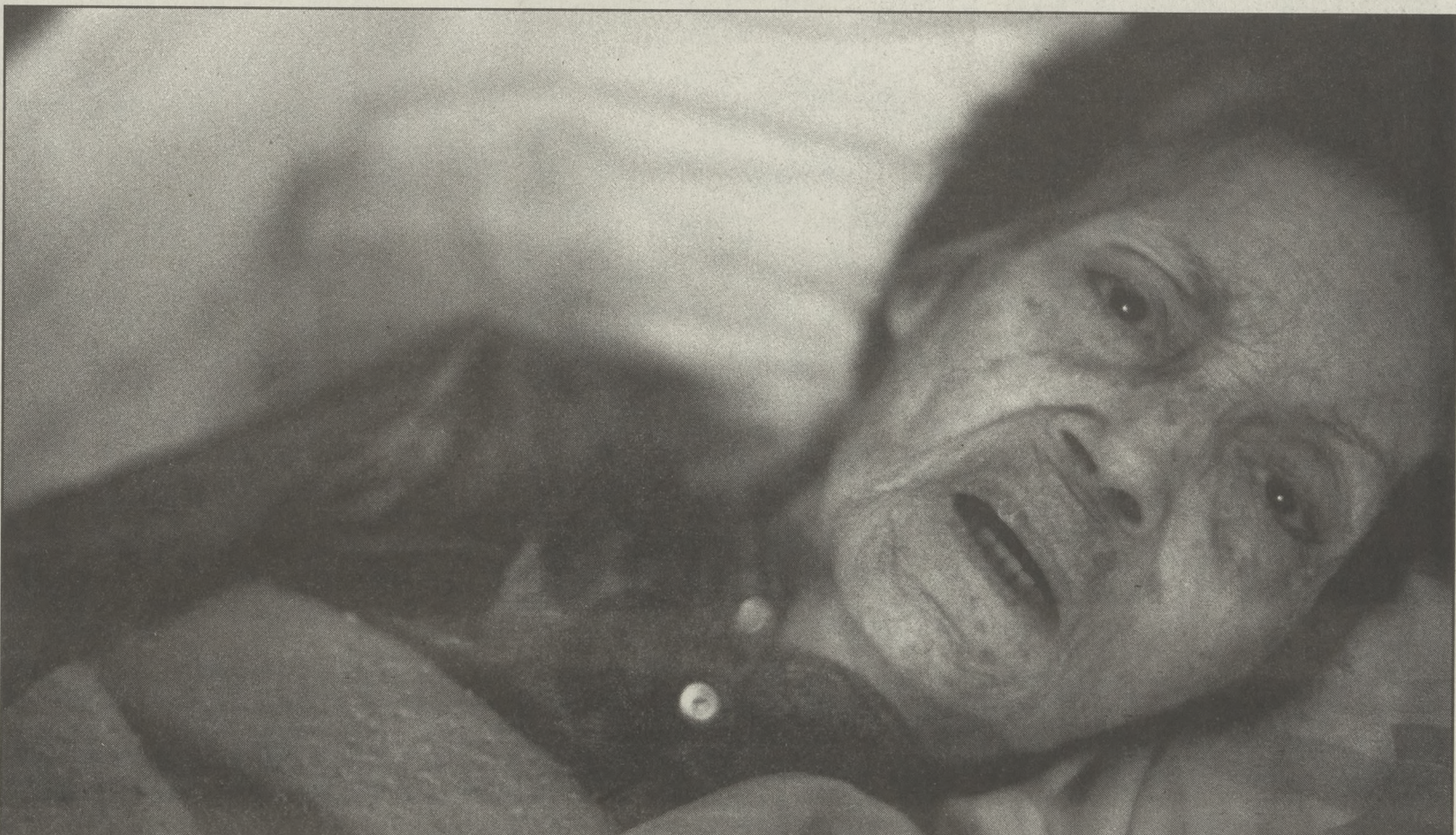
This, along with some writings, is my way of saying goodbye.

At left: Elvira receives a glass of water from Velia Canales, one of her four daughters, while another, Vera Villa, holds a towel to wipe her mother's face.

At left below: After several complaints of being uncomfortable, two of Elvira's grandchildren, Laura (left) and Oscar Joseph (right), adjust her position with pillows. Elvira made several screams of pain during the 20-second procedure."

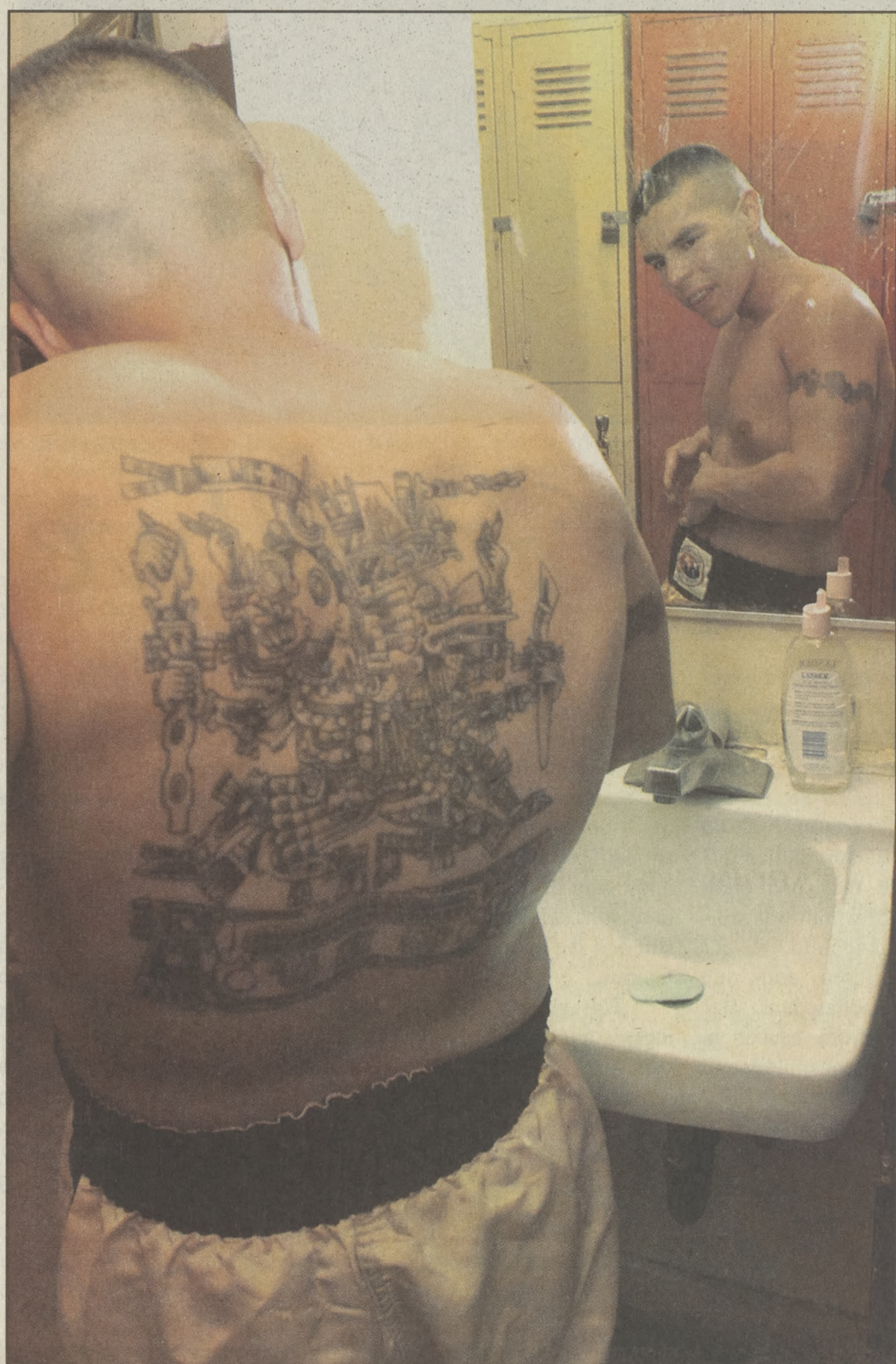
At bottom: Elvira tells one of many family stories, often switching from English to Spanish and back without skipping a beat.

Below: Elvira plays with her fingernails while talking to family members. Her daughters still paint her nails frequently, along with dying her hair her natural auburn brown.



PHOTOS AND TEXT BY BENJAMIN FAVELA AND LAYOUT BY SAMANTHA KUPPIG

GALLERY

TORRID THAI
TOURNAMENT

WARMING UP - Paolo Sanchez gets ready for his first Muay Thai fight at the Muay Thai Academy.

May 10 was the day 20-year-old Paolo Sanchez awaited. It was his first Muay Thai fight and he had trained for six months.

He defeated Anthony Valdez by decision in a nerve-breaking match that reached the final round.

Sanchez has been training in "Thai Boxing" since he was 16 and sees Muay Thai as a possible career, but for now, he only trains to be in good health.

Chief instructor Kru Puk opened the Muay Thai Academy in Los Angeles 13 years ago and organized the tournament.

PHOTOS, TEXT, AND LAYOUT BY JORGE GALLEGOS



WELL DONE - Paolo is congratulated by gym partner Al after he won the match.



FIRM AND TIGHT - Thailand champion Malaipet hand wraps the 20-year-old fighter.



IT PAYS - After six months of training, Paolo sees the results of the hard work.



WINNER - Sanchez holds his trophy after defeating Anthony Valdez.